In the claims:

Please rewrite the claims in the above-captioned application to read as follows:

SUB D1
C1

4. (Amended) A hybrid oligonucleotide consisting of one or more deoxyribonucleotide POPS blocks and one or more regions of 2'-O-substituted ribonucleotides having internucleoside linkages selected from the group consisting of phosphodiester, phosphotriester, phosphorothioate and phosphoramidate linkages, wherein each of said POPS blocks is flanked by a region of 2'-O-subsitutued ribonucleosides.

5. The oligonucleotide according to claim 4, having from 12 to 50 nucleotides.

6. The oligonucleotide according to claim 5, having from 17 to 35 nucleotides.

REMARKS

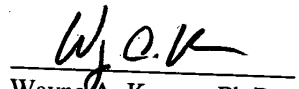
Claims 4-6 are pending in the application. Claim 4 has been amended. Attached is a marked up copy of amemded claim 4, indicating changes made. Claim 5 and 6 are unchanged from the Applicants' amendment filed on April 12, 2000.

Support for the amendment to claim 4 may be found at page 7, lines 3-7, and at page 8, 12-14. Accordingly, no new matter is introduced by way of the foregoing amendment. The amendment raises no new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. The foregoing amendment places the claims in condition for allowance by addressing and overcoming the indefiniteness rejections under 35 U.C.C. §102(b). Enttry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with this preliminary amendment. However, please charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

HALE AND DORR LLP



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4. (Amended) A hybrid oligonucleotide consisting of one or more deoxyribonucleotide POPS blocks [flanked by one or more 2'-O-sustituted nucleosides] and one or more regions of 2'-O-substituted ribonucleotides having internucleoside linkages selected from the group consisting of phosphodiester, phosphotriester, phosphorothioate and phosphoramidate linkages, wherein each of said POPS blocks is flanked by a region of 2'-O-subsitutued ribonucleosides.